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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/645,712	08/20/2003	Douglas R. Dole	206,222	8459

7590 07/01/2005

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150 East 42nd Street
New York, NY 10017-5612

EXAMINER

LUGO, CARLOS

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3676

DATE MAILED: 07/01/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/645,712	Applicant(s) DOLE, DOUGLAS R.	
	Examiner Carlos Lugo	Art Unit 3676	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 August 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 5-8, 18, 19 and 26-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-4, 9-17, 20-25 and 31-35 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 5-7, 18, 27 and 28 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 8, 19 and 26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 29 and 30 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 20 August 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is in response to applicant's preliminary amendment filed on August 20, 2003.

Specification

2. Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

3. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because of the phrase "the present invention" and the use of the word "means". Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

Double Patenting

4. A rejection based on double patenting of the "same invention" type finds its support in the language of 35 U.S.C. 101 which states that "whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process ... may obtain a patent therefor ..." (Emphasis added). Thus, the term "same invention," in this context, means an invention drawn to identical subject matter. See *Miller v. Eagle Mfg. Co.*, 151 U.S. 186 (1894); *In re Ockert*, 245 F.2d 467, 114 USPQ 330 (CCPA 1957); and *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970).

A statutory type (35 U.S.C. 101) double patenting rejection can be overcome by canceling or amending the conflicting claims so they are no longer coextensive in scope. The filing of a terminal disclaimer cannot overcome a double patenting rejection based upon 35 U.S.C. 101.

5. **Claim 19 is rejected** under 35 U.S.C. 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claim 24 of prior U.S. Patent No. 6,626,466. This is a double patenting rejection.

The claimed limitations presented in claim 19 of the present application were previously presented in claim 24 of patent '466 (claim 24 also includes the limitations presented in claim 23).

6. **Claim 26 is rejected** under 35 U.S.C. 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claim 4 of prior U.S. Patent No. 6,626,466. This is a double patenting rejection.

The claimed limitations presented in claim 26 of the present application were previously presented in claim 4 of patent '466 (claim 4 also includes the limitations presented in claims 1-3).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

7. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

- The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter, which the applicant regards as his invention.

8. **Claim 8 is rejected** under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 8 recites the limitation; "said interference relationship provides a separation gap between the bolt pads of juxtaposed coupling segments of said first and second ones of said series, preventing the bringing together of the bolt pads of juxtaposed coupling segments of said first and second series to their fully tightened condition". It is unclear what the applicant wants to claim as his invention in claim 8 since this limitation is already claimed in claim 7 from which claim 8 depends. In order to continue with the examination, claim 8 will not be considered since the claimed subject matter presented in the claim was previously presented in claim 7. Appropriate correction is required.

Allowable Subject Matter

9. **Claims 5-7, 18, 27, and 28 are allowed.**

10. **Claims 29 and 30 are objected to** as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Reasons For Allowance

11. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 5,7,18, and 27 are allowable over the prior art of record because the teachings of the references taken as a whole do not teach or render obvious the combination set forth, including that in a pipe system of same diameter, the coupling segments the coupling segments are identical and symmetric and with this characteristics if a person try to put together a coupling segment of a first series with a coupling segment of a second series, it will create an anti-mismatch.

Weston (US 4,896,902) discloses the invention substantially as claimed. However, Weston fails to disclose that the coupling segments are identical and symmetric. Weston discloses an anti-mismatch but for a pipe system of different diameter and that the coupling segments are asymmetrical.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Carlos Lugo whose telephone number 571-272-7058. The examiner can normally be reached on 9-6pm EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Glessner can be reached on 571-272-6843. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Art Unit: 3676

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-306-5771.

C.L.

Carlos Lugo
AU 3676

June 22, 2005

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Brian E. Glessner", followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

BRIAN E. GLESSNER
PRIMARY EXAMINER